

MacPherson Kwok Chen & Heid LLP
1762 Technology Drive, Suite 226 2402 Michelson Drive, Suite 210
San Jose, CA 95110 Irvine, CA 92612
Tel. (408) 392-9250 Tel. (949) 752-7040
Fax (408) 392-9262 Fax (949) 752-7049
Email: jhallman@macpherson-kwok.com

COPY

April 5, 2004

Robert Linn, Esq.
Cohen & Grigsby, P.C.
11 Stanwix Street, 15th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-3115

Re: U.S. Patent Application entitled "Method And Apparatus For
Automated In-Process, Isotope Dilution Threshold And Quantification
Measurement Mass Spectrometry"

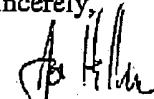
Inventor(s): Howard M. Kingston
Serial No.: 10/004,627
Filing Date: December 4, 2001
Our Reference: M-15307 US

Dear Mr. Linn:

As you may be aware, U.S. Serial No. 10/004,627 (hereinafter "Metara 1") was filed with Dr. Kingston named as the sole inventor. Having conducted further investigation into the inventorship of Metara 1, we have concluded that there are actually three co-inventors: in addition to Dr. Kingston, Marc Anderson and Ye Han are also co-inventors. An amendment to correct the inventorship does not in any way denigrate Dr. Kingston's rights as an inventor of Metara I -- on the contrary, it enhances his rights because Metara 1 cannot issue as a valid U.S. patent unless the inventorship is named correctly. Note that under U.S. patent law, each co-inventor need not make the same type or amount of contribution. Moreover, a co-inventor need not make a contribution to the subject matter of every claim.

Please forward the enclosed declaration and application to Dr. Kingston for his signature (please also date the signature as well). Should you or Dr. Kingston have any questions regarding this procedure, please call me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Jon W. Hallman

JWH/erh
Enclosures